United Nations S/2015/660

Security Council

Distr. General
24 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 20 August 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter to the President of the Security Council of 26 June 2015 (S/2015/494) and my report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus of 2 July 2015 (S/2015/517), I have the honour to write to you on the subject of confidence-building measures and the supporting role played by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), both of which the Security Council welcomed in its resolution 2234 (2015).

As you are aware, on 28 May 2015, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders announced further confidence-building measures that would bring the two communities closer together, including the opening of additional crossing points, beginning at Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Aplıç and Deryneia/Derynia. The Security Council, in its deliberations of 22 July 2015, strongly welcomed that initiative.

Actively seeking to support those agreements, the United Nations Mine Action Service, facilitated by UNFICYP, has conducted risk assessments around the proposed crossing points in the buffer zone. To move forward with regard to the two crossings and ensure the safety of Cypriots, as well as the UNFICYP personnel who will patrol and monitor the area, mine clearance will be required in those areas, north of the Turkish forces ceasefire line.

Pursuant to my above-mentioned letter to the President of the Security Council and his letter of reply of 30 June 2015 (S/2015/495), a demining team is currently deployed from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to UNFICYP under the framework of inter-mission cooperation to clear a hazardous area within the buffer zone, where heavy rains washed down mines from a Turkish forces minefield. To date, nearly two thirds of the area has been cleared.

Mindful of the importance of an early realization of the agreement by the leaders in lending further momentum to the settlement talks, I should be grateful for the concurrence of the Security Council for the UNIFIL demining team to remain in Cyprus under the current arrangement until December 2015 to complete the current undertaking and the proposed clearance at the above-mentioned crossings.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-14322 (E) 250815

Please recycle